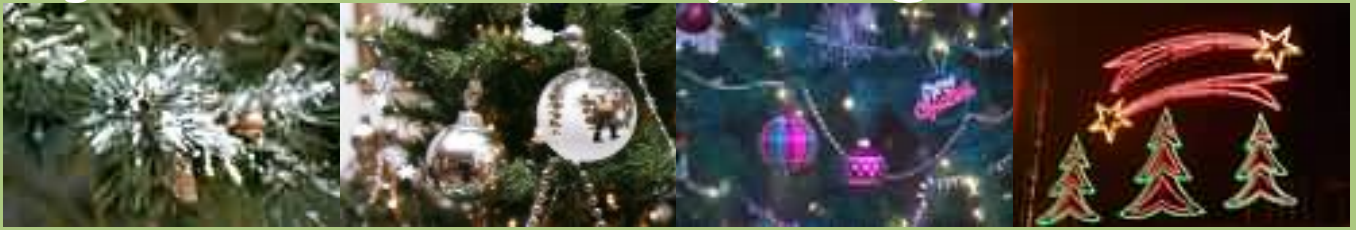


Pyrenean Sheepdog



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

WINTER 2007

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



This is my first attempt at editing the newsletter and I hope that you will bear with me. Clearly as I get used to it will hopefully get better. May I take this opportunity of extending our thanks to the previous editor Angela White for all her efforts in producing previous newsletters.

The Newsletter does depend upon the membership in terms of providing articles for publication. It should be a way of keeping everyone informed of what is happening in the Pyrenean Sheepdog world in the UK. Therefore I will be pleased to receive anything that you would feel that others would find interesting and informative. If any of you have any comments regarding how you would like to see the newsletter develop please let me know. I would also like to receive feed back regarding this newsletter since that will help me in the future.

I can be contacted by e-mail riacaud@mac.com
The last date for contributions for the next newsletter is 31st march 2008.

Can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the death of Brenda Judson. She passed away on Tuesday 27th November. Although Brenda was not a member of the club, her contribution to the breed in this country was immense. Our sympathies at this sad time go to her family.

NOTE TO NEW OWNERS

It is particularly important that if anyone is experiencing any difficulties whatsoever with their Pyrenean Sheepdog that they consult the breeder of their dog in the first place. It is generally accepted that the breeder will provide the facility to take back the dog should that prove to be necessary. This is all part of a code of practice for breeding. There is no doubt that breeders would prefer this to happen rather than any other alternative which may be highly unpalatable, it is important not to be too sensitive about such issues since the well-being of the dog is paramount.

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VISIT THE CLUB WEB-SITE
www.pyreneansheepdog.co.uk

Web site editor

Charlie Stratton

access via the web site

DISCLAIMER

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Sarah and Andrew Beesley

Mrs W. Botto

Mrs M Sanderson

Karen Brine and Dr Greg Cowie

Jacquie Emmerson

Allan Fisher

Shane and Eion Flint

Jenni Gemmill

Sarah Hawkeswell

Fiona Holdsworth

Duna Jones

Adrian and Helen Kerner

Jane Readman

Mrs R Robson

Sarah and John Sears

Alan Tomes

Rachel Whites

Caroline Williams

WELCOME BACK TO :-

Virginia Harry

Hip Scores

Rambauds Libellule

AE1 RH5/LH5 Total 10 10.05.07

Rambauds Qui Vive

AG2 RH3/LH5 Total 8 10.05.07

Rambauds Raccord with
Pippanabbey

AG3 RH3/LH7 Total 10 31.05.07

Rambauds Soyeuse Surprise

AG3 RH7/LH7 Total 14 06.07.07

Please let me know the Hip scores when you get them done and I will publish them in the newsletter. By doing this we will begin to get a data base which will help with future breeding.

Remember to send Charlie Stratton photographs of your dogs for inclusion on the web site.

www.pyreneansheepdog.co.uk

1.

BITS AND PIECES

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will take place at 11am on Sunday 24th February 2008 at Lubenham Village Hall, Lubenham, Leics. It is proposed that after the AGM we adjourn to the local pub for lunch before the committee meeting in the afternoon. If you wish to join us please let Liz Lewis know.

The AGM agenda is being sent out with the Newsletter if you have any comments arising from the agenda which you wish to be raised at the AGM or anything which you wish to be raised under AOB please let the secretary know by 24th January 2008. Nominations for anyone wishing to stand for the committee with a proposer and seconder should also be received by the Secretary by 24th January 2008. Applicants need to have been a member of the club for at least a year to be eligible for election to the committee.

Directions to Lubenham Village Hall: Lubenham is 10 miles from M1 Junction 20 and 1 Mile from market Harborough. From M6 Junction 1-left towards Lutterworth on A426 and at the Lutterworth roundabout, follow signs for Market Harborough, crossing over the M1 on to the A4304. Follow the A4304 for approx. 10 miles until Lubenham. Take the 2nd left towards Foxton, then immediately 1st left-the Village Hall is on the left.



Mansfield Canine Society is putting on classes for the Pyrenean Sheepdog at it's show at Belper Leisure Centre on Saturday 2nd February 2008.

Hopefully the classes will be well supported. Schedules are available from Liz Lewis. Closing date for entries is Wednesday 2nd January 2008.



If you are showing your dog or competing in agility or obedience send the results to Chris Lewis to be included in the newsletter. Chris can be contacted via the link on the web site.

Charlie wants more people to send in photos for the web site. He is trying to keep it fresh by changing things on a regular basis. If you want your dog to be in the photo of the month send a photo to Charlie via the link on the web site.



The Fun Day will be held at Lewknor Village Hall on the 29th June 2008. More details will be in the next Newsletter.



Once again the stand was manned at Discover Dogs Earl's Court on the 10th and 11th November. As usual there was a lot of interest in the breed. Many thanks to all those club members who gave up their time to help on the stand.

Cruft's next year is the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th March. We will need as much help on the stand as possible to cover the four days. Now that there are classes for the Pyrenean Sheepdog at Cruft's it means that fewer people are able to help on the stand so if you're not showing your dog please come and help. Car park tickets and food vouchers are provided by the Kennel Club.



Sending the Newsletter out by e mail is working well. If you change your e mail address please let Carla or Liz know so that you can continue to receive your Newsletter. Please make sure that you write your e mail address clearly on your renewal form. Carla sometimes has a struggle to decipher them!



Floor v. Table

When I was at a show recently, it came to my attention that some people seem to be under the impression that the Pyrenean Sheepdog can be shown on the table. This greatly concerned me as I have always been under the impression that this breed is shown only on the floor. In order to confirm this, I contacted Alain Pécoult. He has kindly given me his permission to print his reply:

"They are certainly never shown on a table in France, Italy or Germany as far as I know, but I have seen them shown on a table in the US and Scandinavia, which is something I very much disapprove of as it means they must be getting smaller. Our sheepdog is in the category of the Portuguese or Catalan Sheepdog rather than the Puli or the Pumi."

I hope that this clears this matter up. It has always been our aim to keep all aspects of the breed as close to the French example as possible and I hope that we never see a Pyrenean Sheepdog being shown on a table in this country.

Notice of a Judging Seminar on the Pyrenean Sheepdog

This will be a unique opportunity to hear M Alain Pécourt, President of the Réunion des Amateurs de Chiens Pyrénéens (the French Club) and expert on the breed speak in depth on the Breed Standard and will answer questions. Attendance certificates will be given.

Date Saturday 29th March 2008

Time 2pm

Place The Fieldhead Hotel, Markfield, Leics LE67 9PS

Cost Seminar only £9 Seminar place and buffet £13 (This price applies to club members only)

The Seminar is aimed mainly at Judges who already judge or who are aspirant Judges of the Pyrenean Sheepdog. There may be places available for interested club members. A booking form was included with the Christmas card.



At the last committee meeting it was unanimously decided that Alain Pécourt should be made an Honorary member of the Club. Alain is honoured by this decision.



POINTS SCHEME

New for 2008, We are in the process of devising a points scheme for dogs competing in various competitions throughout the year, whether it is in the show ring, the agility ring, obedience competitions or any competition where the dogs are out and about. The aim is to acknowledge the successes but more to the point the fact that the dogs are being seen and to support the efforts made by their owners, in spreading awareness of the breed through their dedication and efforts. The exact nature is still to be finalised. The aim will be for it to run from 1st January to 31st December each year with an award ceremony occurring at the AGM each year. It is therefore important if owners wish to be considered for this that they keep an ongoing record of their dog's achievements.

These should be sent to Pat Phillips her e-mail is phillips@kelltara.orangehome.co.uk. She will collate the results. Further details regarding this will be announced in the next newsletter especially regarding the actual allocation of points for each activity.



WESTERN BERGER DAY 2007

Leading up to the Western Berger Day on July 29th at Colin and Meriel Weston's farm the weather had been really terrible and we couldn't decide whether to go or not. Two lots of friends had been stranded overnight because of the floods the weekend before and we didn't want to suffer the same fate especially with two dogs in the car. We watched the weather forecast very closely the day before and although heavy rain was forecast it was meant to be during the night followed by a lovely day.

For once the forecast was accurate and we set off in dry weather. On arriving at the farm, several people were already assembled on the lawn enjoying the sunshine and the coffee which Colin was dispensing. Soon after, we set out for a farm walk which had been modified because of the wet weather. However the dogs were still able to have their usual session in the stream.



It really is great to see them all milling about in the water. Holly was very single minded trying to turn stones over and Jenni Gemmil's puppy, just ran up and down in the water having a mad five minutes. There was a second opportunity

for the dogs to go in the water a few minutes later



Shortly after our return from the walk a delicious lunch was served. There was a great spread of both savouries and sweets, which everyone had contributed. We all sat around in the sunshine, yes sunshine, enjoying the food and the warm weather. Some of the dogs had a go at play agility, which was set up. We think that there were 24 dogs in total about half of those being residents.

Vicky Wilford then explained the mysteries of Working Trials to us and then she laid a trail in a nearby field so that we could watch Skooter demonstrating his tracking skills, which he did very well.

Before long it was time to leave for the long journey home. Thanks to Colin and Meriel for making everyone so welcome.

LIZ LEWIS



SKOOTERS DAY AT THE WESTERN BERGER GATHERING 2007

Skooter and I were really sorry to miss the P.S.D. Club Fun Day, life had been rather hectic through June and into July, but we were glad to hear that it went well and everyone had a good day.

We hoped we would be able to take up the invitation to visit Wales later in the month. After all the ghastly rain in the middle of July it was relief when the day approached and the weather, after changing from rain to sun to rain again, finally set fair.

John, Skooter and I arrived just as everyone was getting back from the walk. Skooter was pleased to be greeted by his four legged mum rushing round the back of the car to see him. I was a little apprehensive about letting him, as a male dog, into all the others who had got used to each others company that morning. Well I need not have worried, not a cross word between any of them, only a very minor word later between two of the bitches as to when ownership of some crumbs on the floor was disputed! They all looked so relaxed seeming to be really enjoying the company of others of the same breed.

After a leisurely lunch sitting in the garden at the front of the farmhouse in the lovely hot sunshine I then got Skooter ready to do some Working Trials training. I explained what I was going to do and why and those who were interested came to watch.

I laid a simple 3 leg track, on grass of varying lengths with 2 articles, one midway and the other at the end. I worked this straight away, to save time but normally work aged tracks. The level we work at the moment tracks are a minimum of 1 1/2 hours old, and at the next level, which we are working towards they are a minimum of 3 hrs old. The number of legs also increases and I counted 24 in one report I saw recently.

John marked out a Search Square and 4 articles were put in, all placed by someone different. It was quite fun watching everyone walking in the square together, a really good medley of smells for the dog. Skoots was not put off by all the different

scents, also including all the different fragrances in the air of Colin & Meriels various animals, Horses, Sheep, Alpaccas, Goats, Chickens, etc., to name just a few I can't remember them all! As we walked to the field, Skooter was frightened by the Rhea Bird that came to the fence to tell him not to come near their territory, they are quite big and they do make an unusual deep call which is not like anything I've heard before.

I set up a sendaway which he enjoyed doing and then worked on his 'Speak on Command'. This is needed for the top stake in Working Trials. He is a reasonably polite dog and doesn't make too much noise, yes I know - amazing for a Pyrenean Sheepdog, but true!

So it's something I am having to train but despite this and the audience watching he did manage some Barks for me. They have a Gun Test in W.T. and this is something I also work very hard on, as a noise sensitive breed, and he is a noise sensitive dog, training for this is always on-going.

I got Chris Lewis, our Chairman to act as the judge and Skoots looked really sweet as he cocked his head to one side as we simulated the Gun Test and it made us all smile! He was probably thinking I'll pretend it's fooling me, but I know it's not the real thing!

He was a good boy and he worked neatly in a nice calm and relaxed manner, which is very pleasing and it made it all look relatively easy – believe me it's not been anything like that simple!

So thank you to those who came to watch, and to everyone for being good company on the day. And of course a very special 'Thank You' to Colin and Meriel for having us all at their lovely farm and especially for letting me use a field to do some valuable training with my boy, it was good to do it in a different place and it also meant we did not miss any of our preparation for our next championship stake in August. – I've just heard the Trial is cancelled because of Foot & Mouth—never mind-fingers crossed the F&M is contained and over soon.

Vicky Wilford



The Nationale d'Élevage 2007

Diane Newton, Sheila Janson, Cynthia Milnes and I set off for our visit to the Nationale d'Élevage in Argelès-Gazost, a town in the foothills of the Pyrenees. We landed at Pau airport early on Friday morning, the weather was very good. We soon got through customs and collected the hire car and with Sheila in the driving seat and Di in Driving Instructor mode in the passenger seat we set off to do some sight seeing. They were great and put themselves out to show us some of the places they had visited in previous years. We travelled through some lovely countryside stopping at a pretty little town called Luz Saint Sauveur where we had lunch sitting outside in the sunshine. We then wandered around this quaint town photographing some of the wonderful architecture. We then went up and up in the mountains until we reached the Col de Tourmalet. This is the highest driveable pass in the French Pyrenees, often playing a role in the Tour de France. It is a perennially windy pass and is dominated by an anatomically correct statue of a naked

cyclist which commemorates the first passage here of the Tour de France in 1910. The weather was so fantastic with clear views across the mountains and you could really appreciate the vastness of those mountains. We made our way back to our hotel in Argelès-Gazost and after dinner turned in for an early night.

After breakfast on Saturday we walked the short distance to the Parc de Casino where the show is held. On this, the first day, the three tests are held. One is to test how a dog reacts to different situations, one to test sociability and aptitude to work and one to the dogs reaction to sheep. This latter test was very interesting. The dogs' reactions varied and the sheep were very large, strong and unafraid, one even had to be removed because it attacked a dog!

On Saturday afternoon we drove up the mountains to the elegant spa and winter sports town of Cauterets where we had lunch and after a stroll around the town went on up to the Pont d'Espagne which is an important landmark on the historic route across the mountains to Spain. We took lots of photographs and then made our way back to Argelès in time to see the procession. This starts from the Parc de Casino with the dogs and their owners, the President of the RACP M Pécoult, the Mayor of the town and a band wending their way up to the town square. Speeches were made, wine was flowing and it was a very friendly wonderful atmosphere.

The show on Sunday is the main highlight of the weekend and this year a record number of dogs had entered. There were 219 Bergers, 22 Face Rase, 135 mountain dogs, 9 Spanish Mastiffs and 17 Catalans. It was interesting to see so many Bergers and note the differences in coat colour, texture, ear placement and tail carriage. I was surprised and disappointed to see some of the dogs coats and ear feathers had been trimmed, many with ugly scissor marks visible.

Judging started in all rings and some of the classes were very large and seemed to take

for ages as under FCI rules the Judge has to do a critique on all the dogs. Carabrae On Top of Old Smokey (Smokey) who was bred by Brenda Judson and is now owned by M Pécoult was entered in Très Jeune Mâle (this is a class for puppies aged 9 to 12 months) he was very ably handled by Leslie Waters and to the delight of all his British fans who were rooting for him, he won his class. Liz Lewis with her bitch Rambauds Madame Mystique avec Riacaud (Meg) was entered in Open Bitch class, a huge class with over 40 entries, and we were pleased to see she was graded excellent. Vicky Wilford with Riacaud Ulric de Picors (Skooter) was entered in Open Dog, another huge class, he looked really good and went well.

The Parc is a lovely venue for the show. It's such a pretty setting surrounded by the mountains. There are several stands there selling all sorts of different things, a band plays and there is a carousel for children. It all seems very laid back and relaxed. The show ends with a Parade of all exhibitors from different countries flying their national flags. Then the main prize winners are picked and finally we get a Best in show which this year was a Mountain Dog.

Pat Phillips

CLUB MEMBERS' RESULTS NATIONALE d'ELEVAGE 2007

Open Female

Excellent

Meg (Rambauds Madame Mystique avec Riacaud) Owned by Liz Lewis

Toyah (Toyah de l'Oustaou de Padel) Owned by Roland Merchx and Christel van den Bosch

Donna (Diamant du Pic de Pioulou) Owned by Veerle Vlerick and Eddy von Pelt

OPEN MALE

Tres Bon

Skooter (Riacaud Ulric de Picors) Owned by Vicky Wilford

VERY YOUNG MALE

3rd Foli (Foli du Pic de Pioulou) Owned by Veerle Vlerick and Eddy van Pelt

CHAMPION MALE

6th Obi (Ch.Oberon du Pic D'Arbizon) Owned by Dora Buelens-Mootgat

7th Tintin (Ch.Tintin de l'Oustaou de Padel) Owned by Veerle Vlerick and Eddy van Pelt

SPECIAL MENTION

Very Young Male

1st Carabrae Smokey previously owned and bred by Brenda Judson now owned by Alain Pecoult

Best Face Rase in Show

Saphir Bleu de Laubajac owned by Ann de Clercq



Argelès-Gazost 2007

The Nationale d'Élevage des Chiens des Pyrénées took place on the 22nd and 23rd September at Argelès-Gazost and this year the BTSC (the Belgian Club) was well represented.

So that we could discover this pretty region of France, Veerle and Eddy suggested that we join them the week before and they would organise some trips while awaiting the arrival of other members. We arrived at the Hotel Picors at Aucun on the 15th September, where the owners Régis and Nathalie, gave us a warm welcome.



On Sunday, after having scrutinised the sky (good weather is essential in the mountains) we took the road towards the natural Lake d'Estaing (1,161m) where we would walk and have a picnic, much to the joy of our dogs. How good it was to see them run and jump like "kids" and then frolic in the water to cool down.

In this pastoral area the animals are free and coming round a rocky outcrop we met horses, cows and sheep sometimes with little ones still wobbly on their feet. On our return we were pleased to see Stan and Dora waiting on the sunny terrace of the hotel for us and an aperitif!

The next day we headed for the Col de Soulor (1358m) and the Col d'Aubisque (1,709m) where we had splendid views. Then, in true Belgian style, we tracked down two villages with familiar names—Gan and Bruges! Then we tasted and bought some Jurançon, before tasting the famous Garbure. This rustic soup made up of various

vegetables stewed in a stock of ham and duck, is the ideal dish after a good walk.

On Tuesday the weather was still not very good after a storm in the night so we devoted the morning to buying traditional souvenirs and visiting the local market. This was the chance to discover regional products sold direct from the producer to the consumer---sheep's cheese, sausage, honey and bread. Afterwards we took the road to the Col de Hautacam (1,746m) but it still had its head in the clouds!

Wednesday morning, under a blazing sun, we left for the Cirque de Gavarnie. This site of exceptional beauty is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We were very impressed with its seventeen summit of more than 3,000m and the waterfall. In the evening our English friends Liz and Chris joined us. In the evening we went to some folk singing and dancing organised by the hotel.

The next day we again took the road to Hautacam, this time in the sun, for a walk to Lac d'Isaby. This lake is nestled in the middle of vast pastures roamed by hundreds of horses, cows and sheep. We picnicked, in this idyllic setting, on traditional bread cheese and sausage, all washed down with excellent local wines—Madhiran, Buzet etc while the dogs played in the water. When we returned to the hotel we found that our friends Roland and Christel had just arrived. So, day by day, our happy group grew bigger when we met up for aperitifs in the evening!

Already it was Friday, the day reserved for the ascent (by car) of the Col de Tourmalet (2115m) followed by a little stroll in Bagnère de Bigorre, before going to have something to eat at a little inn in the Lespone valley where we met Ann and



Lieven. Our "Club Med" organisers, Stan, Eddy and Roland have the knack of tracking down small, friendly restaurants where the owner does the cooking using local ingredients to treat us.

After a delicious meal, in order to salve our conscience, we did a two hour walk towards Chiroulet before returning to find that Vicky and John, Françoise, Pierre Olivier, Laurence and Marie-Paule had arrived. Finally the group was complete and the atmosphere was even happier!

On Saturday the "fête des chiens" began. In the morning we saw the agility demonstrations and the dogs working with the sheep before going to eat at a little inn which from the outside didn't look all that great, but surprised us with a pretty interior and good food. We had our post lunch drinks at the lovely gite that Ann and Lieven were renting, while we waited for the next part of the festivities. Thanks to them for an excellent time. The day closed with the parade of dogs through the town of Argelès-Gazost, followed by a speech by the mayor and a toast to friendship.

The big day has arrived! Early on Sunday morning, we set ourselves up, in the magnificent Parc de Casino, under the hundred year old trees, to insure a comfortable place for our dogs and also to have a well organised Headquarters in a strategic place between the different show rings. We wanted to make sure that we were present to support each of our candidates during their performance.

At 4 o'clock was the parade of all the partici-



pating countries in the Ring of Honour, where, with our fluorescent yellow T-shirts, we made a conspicuous entrance. This was underlined by the

President of the RACP, who was delighted by the participation of an impressive and happy group.



We were all very happy when Ann won Best Female Face Rase with Saphir. A little more patience and tension before the nomination of Best Face Rase which Ann and Saphir won. Something that was fittingly celebrated with champagne. Alas, next morning it was time to leave. We have promised ourselves to see each other again for our walk on 21st October to exchange photos and anecdotes of our magnificent French holiday.

Olga and Michel Stree and Farou

Translated from the French by Liz Lewis



AGILITY DOGS IN THE SHOW RING

Not long after Cruft's, during an idle moment at an agility show, Joy Hitchcock and I were talking about Cruft's and showing in general. We decided that we would try our luck in the show ring with Quincey and Meg. We consulted with those in the know and decided that we would enter them in the East of England Show on 19th July. We eventually sent off our entry forms and then our fate was sealed!

I decided that Meg and I should go to some ring craft classes to at least get to grips with the basics of showing. I worked out that we would get seven sessions in before the show. I felt as though we were on one of those T.V. shows when you have to complete an almost impossible task in a ridiculously short space of time! After three weeks Meg was showing some progress with moving and standing but wasn't too happy about the "judge" at ring craft going over her, but with four more sessions that would improve. Then Meg came in season, which meant that we missed three crucial ring craft sessions. However we would be able to go to just one more, two days before the show. We set out on the Tuesday and did the half hour journey only to find the hall closed and no one in sight when we got there. So we just had to drive all the way home again! (I've since discovered that there is no class just before the East of England Show).

On the morning of the show, Joy picked me up and we drove to Peterborough together wondering quite what we had let ourselves in for! On arriving at the ground we found our way to the hall and our benches. We soon saw some familiar faces and we were welcomed to the showing fraternity. We stood round the ring watching the Smooth Collies who were in the ring before us. All too soon it was time for the Pyrenean Sheepdog to go in the ring. The three juniors went in first and Joy and I watched to see what the judge required. Then it was our turn to go into the Post Grad class. There were five of us in total. Meg responded quite well to being gone over by the judge and in my humble opinion he was very good with the dogs. She didn't move as well as she can, probably because she was in a strange environment, but on the whole I was pleased with the way she coped with the situation. In the end Meg and I were 4th and Joy and Quincey 5th. Meg and Quincey are still wondering where the jumps and other obstacles were!

The Open class then followed and then Best Puppy, Best Bitch, Best Dog and Best of Breed were decided. (Full results printed below)

After a quick look round the stalls, Joy and I headed home relieved that our experience was over! I think I might be tempted to try one or two more shows and we will continue going to ring craft on and off. I'm not so sure about Joy and Quincey! In the meantime if any show people fancy their chances in the agility ring we'll be pleased to see them!

Liz Lewis



My Friend

When God had made the earth and sky,

The flowers and the trees,

He then made all the animals,

And all the birds and bees.

And when his work was finished,

Not one was quite the same.

***He said "I'll walk this earth of mine,
and give each one a name."***

***And so he travelled land and sea,
and everywhere He went,***

***a little creature followed Him,
until it's strength was spent.***

***When all were named upon earth ,
and in the sky and sea,***

***the little creature said "Dear Lord,
there's not one left for me."***

***The Father smiled and softly said,
"I've left you 'till the end,***

***I've turned my own name back to front,
and called you DOG my friend."***



Ten Commandments for Pet Owners

Author unknown

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want from me. Do not break my spirit with your temper, though I will always forgive you. Your patience and understanding will teach me more quickly those things you want me to learn.
3. Treat me kindly, my beloved friend, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for your kindness than mine. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as a punishment. After all, you have your job, your friends, your entertainment. I have only you.
4. Speak to me often. Even if I don't understand all your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me. Your voice is the sweetest sound I ever hear, as you must know by my enthusiastic excitement when your footsteps fall upon my waiting ear.
5. Please take me inside when it's cold and wet. I'm a domestic animal and no longer accustomed to the bitter elements. I ask for little more than your gentle hands petting me.
6. Keep my bowl filled with clean water; I cannot tell you when I am thirsty. Feed me good food so that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to be by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to share with you my life, for that is what I live for. However you treat me, I'll never forget it.
7. Don't hit me. Remember, I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, but I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I am not getting the right food, I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart is getting old and weak.
9. Take care of me when I get old. You will grow old, too.
10. When I am very old, when no longer in good health, please do not make heroic efforts to keep me going, I am not having fun. Just see to it that my trusting life is taken gently. And be with me on that difficult journey when it is time to say "good-bye". Never say, "I can't bear to watch." Everything is easier for me when you are there. I will leave this earth knowing with my last breath that my fate was always safest in your hands. Remember - I love you.

LATEST NEWS FROM ZILLAH



Hello it's me again with my latest news about what I have been doing over the summer months. As it is dark at nights now and I am not able to sit in the garden in the evening, I have decided that my two favourite places for the moment are at the side of the chair in the lounge, or underneath the piano in the kitchen. At least I can get on with my news as there are no distractions or anything much going on in the garden, except of course next doors cat, Jess, who sometimes passes through. Do you know he is always trying to aggravate me by sitting on top of our shed. Carla says that he is only looking for birds, and I am to ignore him and not make a fuss, but I am convinced that he sits there because he knows he can annoy me and I can't do anything but bark at him. I have actually been able to get to him on some occasions, I went right up to him barking and snapping at him but he stood his ground, so then I just ran off, back inside, I wouldn't hurt him at all you know, I just wanted to make it clear to him that this was my garden, and that he had a very nice one next door. That's cats for you they just do what they want, when they want. Just lately Jess has been joined by another cat we have called him or her, orange nose, as there is a stripe of orange coloured fur running the exact length of her nose, quite distinctive, unlike Jess who is a black and white cat. Jess was already living next door when I first came to live with Carla and Klaus so perhaps he thinks that as he was around in the first place I should share the garden with him as well.

In August we went to Stoke St Michael, Somerset, for a weeks holiday with our friends John and Fre-da, their two daughters, Catherine and Rebecca, and there partners Dave, and Joe. We were very lucky in choosing what must have been the hottest week of the year. We all seemed to arrive at the cottage at pretty much the same time, even though we all travelled from different directions. As soon as we got there I just had to explore the garden, it was huge, so much space, there was also a wood joining the garden with a gate leading into it, but I wasn't allowed to go there by myself, in case I might get lost, perhaps we will all have a walk in the wood before our holiday is over, I thought to myself.

Cups of tea and plates of cakes soon appeared and were brought into the garden; I had a nice bowl of cold water, and a little snooze while the others spent the afternoon catching up on each others news. As it was such a beautiful evening we all stayed in the garden and had our evening meal outside. When it was time for us all to go to bed Klaus carried me up the stairs to our bedroom, the stairs were very old, steep and twisting, It did try to object a bit I thought that I could get up by myself but after he put me down at the top I realized that he was right, the stairs were to steep for me, sometimes humans do know what is best for us dogs.

The next morning was just as lovely as the day before, hot dry and sunny, and everyone wanted to go for a walk. "I don't think Zillah will be able to go very far today" Carla said to the others, it is to hot for her, we could go a short walk and the rest of you could carry on a bit further, we can sit and wait for you all. So that is what we did, When the others returned we all went for a drink to the pub in the village, we sat underneath the trees, and afterwards explored a ruined castle which dominated the vil-lage.

Every day was warm and sunny, we had some lovely days and the week passed very quickly. I always went straight out into the garden in the mornings checking the perimeter for anything suspicious, and barking loudly at the owners of the cottage who lived next door. Well it wasn't so much at the owners, but their golden Labrador who lived with them, and the two horses and their chickens, and their cat.

On the last day of our holiday everyone wanted to go for a walk so we decided to stay in the garden because as we explained before I can't go for a long walk especially when it is hot. We sat around in the garden for a while and then when it began to get cooler later on in the afternoon we decided to go for a walk in the wood beyond the garden. Off we go with me at the front, can't wait to get through that gate at the bottom, I wonder if that Labrador is out and about today!

As we opened the garden gate we noticed a path that had been made by someone or something, so we just automatically followed the path through the woods. Down and down the path went crossing a small stream with a little bridge over, then upwards again, it was vary dark and we couldn't see where the path ended. As we climbed higher it became lighter and we could then see a stone wall. Just before we came to the end of the wood we happened to look upwards into the trees, and in one of the largest trees we noticed an arrow. It looked as though someone had been shooting with a bow and arrow and had left their arrow behind, sticking out of the tree. Then we noticed a block of wood at the bottom of the tree carved into the shape of an open book. We moved closer and were surprised to see that someone had carved words onto the pages; it was a poem about and arrow, a boy, and a resting place. We didn't understand the poem and wondered what it all meant; perhaps we could ask the owners when we leave in the morning

After packing all of our belonging (I had to make sure that they didn't forget to pack my bag especially as there were chewies that I had not got round to eating). We took our things to our cars which were parked in the owners drive next door. The Lady came out first, followed by the Labrador, which I had to have a small bark at. Carla thanked her saying that we all had a great time in the cottage, and then she asked about the arrow and poem in the wood. The lady told her that their future son in law practiced shooting in the woods for many years, but on the last day he was in the woods his arrow went astray and lodged itself in the tree, the arrow was too high to reach so he had left it there. The next day whilst riding his motorbike he was involved in a tragic accident which cost him his

life, her Husband had carved the book and the poem and placed it at the bottom of the tree because they had all had some great times together in the wood.

Well that's all for now, hope you all have a great Christmas, bye for now.

ZILLAH

WISPA'S SUCCESS



On the 21st August at the age of 24 weeks Wispa (Parbrook Yodal) passed her Muddy Paws Puppy class with flying colours. It was a 10 week course and Wispa was the youngest puppy taking part.

She is seen here with her certificate of achievement.

WELL DONE WISPA



Agility, Show and Working Trials Results

Show Results

East of England, Peterborough

Date: 17th-19th July 2007

Judge Mr R P Oldham

BD Carabrae Mad as a Hatter

RBD Carabrae Daniel Deronda at Nidasha

BB Sauterelle Bleue de Loubajac avec Carabrae

RBB Kimrand Bonne Amie

BOB Carabrae Mad as a Hatter

BP Merrywood Rising Star avec Chikaramor

JUNIOR- Dog or Bitch

1st Carabrae Mad as a Hatter

2nd Merrywood Rising Star avec Chikaramor

3rd Carabrae on Top of Old Smokey

POST GRAD- Dog or Bitch

1st Kimrand Bonnie Amie

2nd Merrywood Gofa Gold

3rd Nidasha Rising Star

Res Rambauds Madame Mystique avec Riacaud

VHC Rambauds Noisette

OPEN- Dog or Bitch

1st Sauterelle Bleue de Loubajac avec Carabrae

2nd Merrywood Gold Dust of Jentima

3rd Carabrae Annabella at Kimrand

Res Merrywood Dark Image

VHC Carabrae Daniel Deronda at Nidasha

Richmond 2007

8th September 2007

BD Carabrae Mad as a Hatter

RRD Riacaud Ultra Paree Match avec Rozimba

BB Merrywood Dancing Queen at Kelltara

RBB Merrywood Dark Image

BP Carabrae Penelope Pitstop at Kelltara

BOB Merrywood Dancing Queen at Kelltara

JUNIOR Dog/Bitch

1st Carabrae Penelope Pitstop at Kelltara

2nd Carabrae Pink Petunia with Thymewinds

3rd Merrywood Rising Star avec Chikaramor

POST GRAD Dog/ Bitch

1st Merrywood Gofa Gold

2nd Carabrae Mad as a Hatter

3rd Hob-nob's Baptiste at Carabrae

Res Kimrand Bonne Amie

OPEN Dog/Bitch

1st Merrywood Dancing Queen at Kelltara

2nd Merrywood Dark Image

3rd Riacaud Ultra Paree Match avec Rozimba

Res Carabrae Daniel Deronda at Nidasha

VHC Carabrae Annabella with Kimrand

Darlington 2007

15th September 2007

Judge: Mr Kevin Young

BD Riacaud Ultra Paree Match avec Rozimba

RBD Carabrae Daniel Deronda at Nidasha

BB Merrywood Dancing Queen at Kelltara

RBB Merrywood Rising Star avec Chikaramor

BP Merrywood Rising Star avec Chikaramor

JUNIOR- Dog/Bitch

1st Merrywood Rising Star avec Chikaramor

2nd Carabrae Penelope Pitstop at Kelltara

3rd Carabrae Pink Petunia with Thymewinds-

Res Carabrae Over the Rainbow of Ivydale

DOG OPEN

1st Riacaud Ultra Paree Match avec Rozimba

2nd Carabrae Daniel Deronda at Nidasha

3rd Carabrae Mad as a Hatter

Res Hob Nob's Baptiste at Carabrae

OPEN BITCH

1st Merrywood Dancing Queen at Kelltara

2nd Carabrae Katriona of Ivydale

3rd Kimrand Bonne Amie

Res Merrywood Gold Dust of Jentilima

VHC Merrywood Dark Image

AVNSC SHOW RESULTS

BOURNMOUTH August 2007

Open Dog

2nd Riacaud Ultra Patee Match avec Rozimba
3rd Carabrae Daniel Deronda at Nidasha

Post Grad Bitch

2nd Kimrand Bonne Amie

Open Bitch

2nd Carabrae Annabella with Kimrand

WELSH KC August 2007

Junior Dog

1st and BD Carabrae Mad as a Hatter

Open Bitch

1st and BAV Merrywood Dancing Queen at Kelltara

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM September 2007

Puppy Bitch

1st Carabrae Penelope Pitstop at Kelltara

Junior Dog

3rd Carabrae Mad as a Hatter

Open Bitch

2nd Merrywood Dark Image
3rd Merrywood Dancing Queen at Kelltara
RES Merrywood Gold Dust of Jentilima

Vet. Bitch

1st Carabrae Madam Butterfly

WORKING AND PASTORAL BREEDS ASS. OF SCOTLAND November 2007

Bitch CC: Merrywood Rising Star avec Chikaramor

BOB: Merrywood Rising Star avec Chikaramor

Junior Dog/Bitch

1st Merrywood Rising Star avec Chikaramor

Limit Dog

3rd Hob Nob's Baptiste at Carabrae

Open Dog

2nd Riacaud Ultra Patee Match avec Rozimba

Open Bitch

2nd Merrywood Dark Image

SPECIAL MENTION

At the South West Working and Pastoral Show on the 6th October, Rosie otherwise known as Merrywood Dancing Queen at Kelltara owned by Pat and Steve Phillips was awarded Best in Breed but it didn't stop there. She went on to the Group which included 20 dogs and she WON it. She subsequently went on to win Reserve Best in Show. This is a first for the breed in this country and marks the entry of the breed into the major league.

This was the crowning glory on an exceptional year which includes:

Bakewell 1st OD/B Best AVNSC

Welsh KC 1st OB Best Bitch, Best AVNSC

Birmingham 3rd OB

Richmond 1st OD/B, Best Bitch, BOB

Darlington 1st OB, Best Bitch, BOB

Well done to Pat and Steve and an extra big pat to Rosie. (I'm sure she has had her fair share of treats since.)



Agility Results

Rambauds Noisette AW
aka Quincey

JULY

EMDAC

Open Mini Agility 2nd
Open Mini Jumping 5th
Primary Jumping 1st
Primary Helter Skelter 6th
Primary Agility 3rd

AUGUST

EMDAC

Primary Jumping 7th

Dog Vegas Agility Show

Grade 4-7 Jumping 2nd

Wilton

Grade 6 Agility 1st
Grade 6 Jumping 1st
Grade 5-7 Agility 2nd

SEPTEMBER

Easington

Grade 1-7 Agility 5th
Grade 7 Jumping 4th
Grade 1-7 Jumping 3rd

Derbyshire Dog Agility Show

Grade 6-7 Jumping 1st (fri)
Grade 6-7 Jumping 1st (Sat)
Grade 6-7 Agility 3rd
Grade 1-7 Jumping 5th
Grade 1-7 Agility 5th

OCTOBER

EMDAC

Novice Jumping 4th

Quincey qualified for the Team Dash Final at Dashin Dogs August show, all the dogs went clear, unfortunately the team lost due to a dropped baton. Quincey qualified for the EMDAC finals, both Agility and Jumping, but was having a particularly blond weekend and was eliminated in both. She was called up for the Supadogs Final, and after going clear in the warm up jumping she had a horrendous warm up agility round, which resulted in Quincey deciding the course was too difficult and a bloke at the side of the ring with his cool bag full of food was much more interesting! She managed to get round the finals course with 10 faults. Roll on next year!!!!
Joy Hitchcock

Coco's Agility Results for 2007 during the 3 week visit to the UK from Jersey this summer.

UKA week show

Senior midi agility 3rd
Senior midi gamblers 3rd
Senior midi jumping 2nd
Senior midi agility 3rd
Senior midi jumping 3rd
Senior midi agility 3rd
Senior power & speed 2nd
Senior TF & out 1st
Senior agility 2nd
Senior jumping 4th
Open Midi Final 8th

Kennel Club Festival

Medium Grade 4/5 agility 6th
Grade 5 jumping 3rd
Grade 5 agility 6th
Medium Final. Finalist

Dogs in Need

Medium Grade 1/5 agility 7th
Grade 1/5 jumping 15th
Grade 1/5 agility 7th
Open pairs 1st
Grade 1/5 jumping 5th

Medium grade 1/5 Final 8th

Sally Rees

Ribalette de l'Oustaou de Padel
aka Ria

JULY

EMDAC

Primary Time Gamblers Agility 7th
Primary Agility 10th
Primary Jumping 19th

OCTOBER

Primary Agility 5th
Primary Helter Skelter 6th
Primary Power and Speed clear

WORKING TRIALS

Riacaud Ulric de Picors aka Skooter

Qualified Working Dog Excellent = WDEx April 2007 also

3rd at BAGSD Championship Working Trial Notts

(Also 2nd AVNSC Working and Pastoral Bath Champ.
Show: 2nd AV Pastoral PG
Chippenham DTC Show
Fun Obedience 2nd Improvers
4th Just Starting 5th Triers)

JUDGES REPORT

Northwich & District Canine Society

Sunday 4TH November 2007

Mrs V. Wilford - PYRENEAN SHEEPDOGS

Class 41. PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG . JUNIOR.

3 entries - 2 absent

1st. & Best Puppy No. 79.

CARABRAE OVER THE RAINBOW OF IVYDALE
Mrs. C Williams

11 months old Harlequin Bitch. Good Colour & Very Good Coat Texture, Excellent Proportions, Very Good Head with Excellent Expression. Unsure of her surroundings but I am sure will become confident with age and experience. Although the only exhibit in this class fully merited her awards.

Class 42. PYRENEAN SHEEPDOG. OPEN.

8 entries - 5 absent

1st & BOB No. 81.

MERRYWOOD GOLD DUST OF JEMTILIMA
Mrs. C. Milnes

3 ½ years old fawn Bitch with Excellent Dentition, Good Shape of Head – coat a little full on the face and head. Very Good Body with Good Tail Carriage – tail lacking hook. Good Feet & Nails. Good Movement. Showed nicely and gave the best overall performance, and so to-day takes first place.

2nd. No.86.

CARABRAE KATRIONA OF IVYDALE
Mrs. C. Williams

2 ½ years old fawn Bitch with Excellent Colour & Excellent Proportions. Very Good Head with Very Good Expression. Excellent Tail with Hook. Very Good Feet. Excellent Type but unfortunately she was a little unsure of her surroundings so did not move freely to show her paces to best advantage.

3rd. No. 80.

RAMBAUDS MADAME MYSTIQUE AVEC RIACAUD
Mrs. E. Lewis

3 ½ years old Dark Grey Bitch with Very Good Head with Excellent Expression, Excellent Ears and Good Eyes. Good spring of rib with Very Good Proportions and Very Nicely Muscled. Natural half tail carried well. Hind feet tend to face outwards. Very Good Stamp of dog but It was such a shame that she did not settle in the ring and so did not show off her movement very well.

As this was my first Judging appointment, I was a little apprehensive, but this soon disappeared after arriving at the show venue as every one was calm, friendly and helpful. I had tried to work through any nerves in the weeks before, going through the ‘what I need to do, and what if this happens scenarios’ as much as it was possible to prepare myself! The venue was quite smart with good facilities and a nice atmosphere inside, although, as is normal for these places indoors, the rings are small. This unfortunately is a big problem for the Pyrenean Sheepdog. As a herding breed for the mountains and hills, being able to run without effort is an important part of the dogs make up. Although a smaller size of dog than a lot of pastoral breeds, they need quite a bit of space to be able to settle and fully get into their stride. To show properly they need room to run.

Mrs. C. Williams with Carabrae Katriona of Ivydale took part in a Variety class later in the day which had the benefit of the whole of the hall, and while the dog had obviously got more used to it’s surroundings and settled down, the advantage of the bigger area was clear as it moved well and got a well deserved place in that class. So while it is very difficult for show organizers to please everyone, we do need to make people aware that these little dogs do need space.

There was one thing that I really did not expect and would never have thought of which gave me a surprise, one exhibitor thought that the dogs were shown on the table. No, it’s a working dog, I’ve never seen them on a table and they don’t show them on a table in France. At the National d’Elevage in France this year, there were 51 entries in Open Female, and 42 entries in the Open Male. The judging for the Open Male took over 3 hours as under FCI rules the judge dictates a verbal critique for each dog which is written down at the time by the steward. Judges usually do several classes, so this would be the place, if it was a dog shown on the table, it would be done.

I would like to say a big ‘Thank You’ to everyone - to those putting my name forward, the Show Committee for inviting me, the Competitors for entering, and to those who were able to make it on the day. After being a show exhibitor & competitor for more years than I care to remember, and although I have judged other dog sports & activities, to see it all from the other side has been quite an experience for me. I have learnt so much from the day, - - Again “thank you all”.

Diary of Shows with PSD Classes

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS

MONTH	SHOW	Show Secretary
MARCH 08.03.08	CRUFTS NEC BIRMINGHAM	THE KENNEL CLUB 08706066750
MAY 09.05.08	BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL STAFFORD	MRS VALENTINE 01536 791399
JULY 09.07.08	PAIGNTON EXETER, DEVON	MRS HODSALL 01364 642420
JULY 12.07.08	NATIONAL WORKING and PASTORAL BREEDS MALVERN, WORCS.	MRS ANN ARCH 0161 7629390
JULY 17.07.08	EAST OF ENGLAND PETERBOROUGH, CAMBS.	MRS CROCKER 01636 892297
SEPTEMBER 06.09.08	RICHMOND GUILDFORD, SURREY	DR R. JAMES 05602 318955
SEPTEMBER 13.09.08	DARLINGTON RIPPON, YORKSHIRE	MRS MARSHALL 01325 312484

OPEN SHOWS

MONTH	SHOW	Show Secretary
FEBRUARY	National Working and Pastoral Ryton on Dunsmore, Coventry	MRS ANN ARCH 0161 7629390
FEBRUARY	NEWARK	MRS BROADBERRY 01636 636660
OCTOBER	South West Working and Pastoral Clevedon, North Somerset	MRS PAYNE 01752 862654

MONTH	SHOW	Show Secretary
NOVEMBER	Northwich Cheshire	MR WEBSTER

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Pyrenean Sheepdog Club of GB

Notice of Annual General Meeting to take place on Sunday 24 February 2008 at Lubenham Village Hall, Lubenham, Leics at 11.00am

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Elect new committee members
3. To read and agree the minutes of 2007 AGM
4. Matters arising from minutes
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report, Financial Statement and Balance Sheet
7. Elect the Club's auditor for 2008
8. To announce the names of officers and committee for 2008
9. Discuss and agree the following changes to the Constitution and Rules
 - i) To more clearly define the role of President
 - ii) To look at subscription for overseas members
 - iii) To change the number at which the committee would be quorate
 - iv) To change the number of members needing to send a signed requisition for a Special general Meeting
 - v) To delete the paragraph "Officers and Committee"
10. Any other business at the discretion of the chair

Liz Lewis

Secretary